



# FALL RIVER

## Bristol County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The City of Fall River is an industrial community on the banks of the Taunton River in Bristol County with a long and fascinating history. The first settler was Benjamin Church, a hero of King Philip's war, who built a sawmill in 1690. The city's geography determined its destiny; as historians have pointed out, the significant fact about Fall River is that it had water power and port facilities together, making it both a transfer point for passenger and freight traffic to New York and the site of intense industrial development. Its diverse residential population is made up of immigrants from Great Britain, Portugal and Canada drawn to the mill jobs available in the city.

Fall River's industrial history began in 1811 when Colonel Joseph Durfee opened the Globe Manufactory. By 1830 the city had seven textile mills, a steamboat to Providence and Newport and its own newspaper. A staggering population and industrial boom made Fall River one of the textile capitals of the nation with more than 100 cotton mills housing four million spindles, employing more than 30,000 people, and generating a weekly payroll of over \$500,000. The city boasted an international market and 130,000 people when its prosperity peaked during the First World War. This was a closely knit industrial complex in which raw materials came into the port of Fall River to be processed into manufactured goods and then shipped out again from the port.

When textile manufacturing began moving south in the 1920's, the city's decline began, accelerating during a devastating fire, which destroyed the central business district, and the Depression. By 1930 the city declared bankruptcy and its Having learned its lesson, the modern city maintains a highly diversified industrial profile with chemical operations, electrical and food products along with the garment and textile industries. It also maximizes tourism with the largest factory outlet district in New England and a World War II memorial which opens a variety of American warships to visitors at the State Pier in Fall River. The city retains a variety of handsome historic public buildings.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Southeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Somerset on the northwest; Freetown on the north and northeast; Dartmouth on the southwest; Westport on the south; Tiverton, Rhode Island, on the southwest; and Mount Hope Bay and the mouth of the Taunton River on the west. Fall River is 50 miles south of Boston.

**Total Area:** 38.22 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 31.02 sq. miles

**Population:** 92,703

**Density:** 2,988 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(New Bedford Station)

Normal temperature in January.....30.6°F

Normal temperature in July.....73.5°F

Normal annual precipitation.....47.3"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Fall River East, Fall River, Assonet, Somerset

## Regional Planning Agency

Southeastern Regional Planning and  
Economic Development District

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Fall River



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 324-2000

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Mayor-Council

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1803

As a city: 1854

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	38,963		
Democrats	27,921	71.7	%
Republicans	2,950	7.6	%
Other parties	14	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	8,078	20.7	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Fall River city, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	91,938	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	91,938	100.0
Male.....	42,953	46.7	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	3,040	3.3
Female.....	48,985	53.3	Mexican.....	179	0.2
Under 5 years.....	5,846	6.4	Puerto Rican.....	1,946	2.1
5 to 9 years.....	6,483	7.1	Cuban.....	38	-
10 to 14 years.....	6,229	6.8	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	877	1.0
15 to 19 years.....	5,834	6.3	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	88,898	96.7
20 to 24 years.....	6,214	6.8	White alone.....	82,274	89.5
25 to 34 years.....	14,322	15.6	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	13,061	14.2	Total population.....	91,938	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	10,772	11.7	In households.....	90,047	97.9
55 to 59 years.....	4,298	4.7	Householder.....	38,759	42.2
60 to 64 years.....	3,307	3.6	Spouse.....	15,613	17.0
65 to 74 years.....	6,957	7.6	Child.....	27,611	30.0
75 to 84 years.....	6,294	6.8	Own child under 18 years.....	20,309	22.1
85 years and over.....	2,321	2.5	Other relatives.....	3,788	4.1
Median age (years).....	35.7	(X)	Under 18 years.....	1,210	1.3
18 years and over.....	69,759	75.9	Nonrelatives.....	4,276	4.7
Male.....	31,610	34.4	Unmarried partner.....	2,445	2.7
Female.....	38,149	41.5	In group quarters.....	1,891	2.1
21 years and over.....	66,343	72.2	Institutionalized population.....	1,472	1.6
62 years and over.....	17,572	19.1	Noninstitutionalized population.....	419	0.5
65 years and over.....	15,572	16.9	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	5,642	6.1	Total households.....	38,759	100.0
Female.....	9,930	10.8	Family households (families).....	23,558	60.8
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	11,608	29.9
One race.....	89,593	97.4	Married-couple family.....	15,613	40.3
White.....	83,815	91.2	With own children under 18 years.....	6,602	17.0
Black or African American.....	2,283	2.5	Female householder, no husband present.....	6,391	16.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	172	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	4,247	11.0
Asian.....	1,987	2.2	Nonfamily households.....	15,201	39.2
Asian Indian.....	154	0.2	Householder living alone.....	13,247	34.2
Chinese.....	216	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	5,507	14.2
Filipino.....	69	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	12,467	32.2
Japanese.....	26	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	10,949	28.2
Korean.....	31	-	Average household size.....	2.32	(X)
Vietnamese.....	99	0.1	Average family size.....	3.00	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	1,392	1.5	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	25	-	Total housing units.....	41,857	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	5	-	Occupied housing units.....	38,759	92.6
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	3	-	Vacant housing units.....	3,098	7.4
Samoan.....	1	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	16	-	occasional use.....	100	0.2
Some other race.....	1,311	1.4	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	2,345	2.6	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	6.7	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races: <sup>3</sup></i>			Occupied housing units.....	38,759	100.0
White.....	85,786	93.3	Owner-occupied housing units.....	13,521	34.9
Black or African American.....	2,947	3.2	Renter-occupied housing units.....	25,238	65.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	587	0.6	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.66	(X)
Asian.....	2,300	2.5	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.14	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	271	0.3			
Some other race.....	2,529	2.8			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 922

Conventional Federal: 1,707

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 147

Federal (Section 8): 2,080



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# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The New Bedford-Fall River Area is served by the airport and port facilities of New Bedford. In addition, Interstate 195 and State Routes 24 and 140 provide access to the airports, ports, and intermodal facilities of Providence and Boston.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are Route 24, the Fall River Expressway from the Boston area; and Interstate Route 195, which connects Boston with Providence, Rhode Island.

### Rail

The Bay Colony Railroad and Conrail provide freight rail service to Fall River. Contact number for Bay Colony RR: (617) 380-3556; contact number for Conrail: (617) 783-6222

### Bus

Bonanza Bus Lines provides commuter service from Fall River to Boston and Providence, Rhode Island. Bonanza also offers service to New Bedford and Cape Cod.

### Other

The Fall River Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located 3 mi N of the city, has 2 asphalt runways: 1,600'x 150' and 3,950'x 150'. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



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# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Battleship Massachusetts

Battleship Cove

(508) 678-1100

Fall River Historical Society

451 Rock Street

(508) 679-1071

Marine Museum at Fall River

70 Water Street

(508) 674-3533

The P.T. Boat Museum & Library

Battleship Cove

(901) 755-8440

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)

[The UMass Dartmouth Theatre Company](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

Charlton Memorial Hospital  
St. Anne's Hospital

### Long Term Care

Catholic Memorial Home  
Charlton Skilled Nursing Fac., Inc  
Cliff Gables Nursing Home  
Cliff Haven Nursing Home  
Cliff Heights Nursing Home  
Cliff Lawn Nursing Home  
Cliff Manor Nursing Home  
Crawford House Convalescent Home  
Crestwood Convalescent Home  
F.R. Jewish Home For The Aged  
Fall River Nursing Home, Inc.  
Highland Manor Nursing Home, Inc  
Home For Aged People  
Kimwell Health Care Center  
Rose Hawthorne Lathrop Home

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

Community Rehabilitation Center  
Hanover House Retirement Fac.  
Rosewood Rest Home

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.